



Young Democratic Socialists of America

July 31 - August 2, 2020

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Convention Rules

Approved by the National Coordinating Committee 03/13/2020

Updated 7/14/2020

Please note: this is the first year we are holding an online convention, and these draft rules may be subject to change as we determine the best ways to facilitate democratic debate. The draft rules will be approved by the convention before they take effect.

Delegate Apportionment and Credentials

1. YDSA members (hereafter referred to as “members” or “membership”) shall be determined on the basis of meeting all of the following criteria:
 - a. That they are dues paying DSA members in good standing.
 - b. That they are listed on the YDSA chapter’s most current membership list as submitted to the national office by May 1st, 2020.
 - c. Their chapter has received a formal charter from the National Coordinating Committee (NCC), and that this charter has not expired or been otherwise nullified as of May 1, 2020.
2. Voting at the 2019 YDSA Annual Conference (hereafter referred to as the “Convention”) shall be apportioned on a ratio of one (1) delegate per every four (4) members in their chapter. Each chapter may elect no more than one (1) alternate for every two (2) apportioned delegates. No chapter shall have less than one (1) delegate and one (1) non-voting alternate. (E.g. a chapter with 8 members would receive 2 delegates and 1 alternate, a chapter with 13 members would receive 3 delegates and 1 alternate, etc.)
3. Beginning April 1, 2019, the national office will provide YDSA chapters (hereafter referred to as “chapters”) with the number of delegates and alternates they have been allocated. A chapter’s members are determined on the basis of the membership list provided to the NCC upon their application for chapter recognition. A chapter may update their membership list by submitting it to the national office. No updated membership lists will be accepted for the purposes of the Convention after May 1st, 2020. No applications for chapter recognition will be accepted for the purposes of the Convention after May 15th, 2020.
4. Chapters shall conduct and supervise their own elections of Convention delegates and alternate delegates in accordance with the applicable provisions of the YDSA constitution. Only members are eligible to be elected as delegates or alternates.
5. Each local must report the result of its elections in writing to the national office no later than June 1st, 2020. The report must include full contact information, including an email address and phone number, for all delegates. If any of the names submitted are found not to be members by the national office, that person will not be issued credentials and the chapter will be responsible for determining a replacement within the aforementioned deadline. The national office shall make their list of members for a chapter available at the request of that chapter.
6. Each Local delegation shall designate a chair who shall be responsible for official communications with the Convention Secretary.

Convention Organization

Committees

7. The Convention committees shall consist of the following:

- a. a Resolutions Committee, to be appointed by the NCC, to manage all submitted constitutional amendments and resolutions. They shall work to reconcile any submissions that are out of order or beyond the scope or powers outlined in the YDSA constitution. (E.g. amendments that attempt to define powers outlined in the DSA constitution or resolutions that attempt to prescribe actions to DSA, both of which would be outside of the powers of the Convention.) The Resolutions Committee shall also work with sponsor(s) who submit similar or overlapping submissions in the interest of developing a single mutually agreeable submission for all sponsors. The Resolutions Committee may propose steps to facilitate consideration of resolutions, including but not limited to appointing small groups to redraft or combine resolutions, preferably in advance of the convention, and in consultation with the sponsors. The Resolutions Committee will structure the order in which resolutions are to be considered, the time allotted to each, and the number of speakers pro and con, taking into account the priorities expressed by the delegates in the poll (see Rule 24). They shall also submit a Consent Agenda to the convention based on the results of the poll, consisting of resolutions for immediate adoption and to be deferred to the NCC in the interest of time. A vote of 20% or more of the full delegated strength of the Convention may bring to the plenary for discussion and vote any resolution or amendment submitted in a timely fashion, but not recommended to the convention by the Resolutions Committee.
- b. a Convention Planning Team, appointed by the NCC, which is responsible for coordinating with the national office, the DSA Convention Planning Team, and Resolutions Committee around logistics and developing a final schedule for the Convention, pending approval from the Convention itself. This includes developing the programming around plenary sessions, workshops, and strategy sessions.
- c. a Presidium, to be confirmed by the Convention, whose duties shall include interpreting the the rules of the convention (see Rule 26 and 27), designating chairs for each Convention session, conducting the elections of members to the National Coordinating Committee and all other elections requiring a written ballot, and for making recommendations to the Convention on any challenges made to any election. The outgoing NCC may propose a slate for the Presidium for the Convention. The Convention Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of the Presidium.
- d. a Styles Committee, to be elected by Convention, to meet after the Convention is concluded which shall be responsible for compiling all adopted constitutional amendments and drafting them into a revised copy of the YDSA Constitution as amended by the Convention. This committee's aim is to incorporate the language of adopted amendments into the constitution in the interest of consistency and clarity. They will submit their draft to the NCC within six weeks of the conclusion of the Convention for the NCC to review and adopt. The Presidium may propose a slate for the Styles Committee for the Convention to adopt.

Recording

8. The National Campus Organizer of DSA shall serve as Convention Secretary, keeping the official record of the Convention, and may appoint such assistants as they deem necessary. In the absence of a National Campus Organizer, the NCC may appoint a Convention Secretary. The Convention Secretary shall also be responsible for convening Convention committees and act as a liaison between all Convention committees and the national office.

Voting

9. A quorum of the Convention shall consist of fifty percent plus one of the registered delegates and seated alternate delegates.
10. An accredited alternate delegate may be seated for a delegate temporarily or permanently. The permanent seating of an alternate must be reported immediately to the Convention Secretary.
11. Each delegate and seated alternate shall be entitled to one (1) vote on all questions coming before the Convention, except that each chapter delegation may vote its full strength provided that no individual casts more than three votes unless authorized to do so by the Convention. A chapter delegation which is less than full strength must inform the Convention Secretary prior to any vote in which multiple votes are to be cast, and shall advise the Convention Secretary of the method by which such multiple ballots will be cast (whether by the delegation as a whole, or by designated delegates.)
12. All questions to the Convention shall be decided by majority vote of the delegates and seated alternate delegates present and voting, except where a specified super-majority vote is required by the Constitution. A motion to suspend rules will require a two-thirds majority vote. All other procedural motions shall require a majority vote, except where otherwise provided in the Rules.
13. No secret ballot shall be conducted. All voting will be through online methods. The Chair of the Convention session shall determine the results of online votes and report the results to the Convention Secretary as well as announcing it to the convention session. A vote will be recounted at the request of any delegate or seated alternate, or if in the judgment of the Chair it is warranted due to closeness of the initial count. The Chair shall appoint such tellers as needed to assist in the counting of the vote.
14. Roll call votes shall be conducted at the request of thirty percent of the delegates and seated alternates present and voting, and shall consist of a recorded vote by delegation.

Plenary Procedure

15. Only delegates, seated alternate delegates, NCC members, and DSA staff members may speak on questions coming before the Convention in plenary session. Speakers on all motions shall be limited to two minutes, unless the convention accepts a different limit.
16. No additional amendments will be accepted from the floor of the Convention. Only primary and secondary amendments submitted and distributed in advance will be heard.

Procedural Authority

16. Except as provided in these Rules, or the Constitution, the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the proceedings of the Convention.
17. Presidium shall be the sole interpreter of the Convention Rules.
18. Any delegate or seated alternate may appeal any ruling of the Presidium. In such instance, the person making the appeal may speak for up to two minutes to advocate the appeal and the Chair may speak for up to two minutes to defend the ruling. No other debate shall be permitted. The ruling of the Chair may be overturned by a vote in favor of the appeal by a majority of delegates and seated alternates present and voting.

Submissions

19. The national office will hold at least one (1) informational call open to all members conducted over Zoom about the submissions process and NCC elections before May 1st, 2020.
20. All proposed amendments to the constitution and resolutions shall have a sponsor and at least two (2) additional cosponsors. All sponsors and cosponsors must be members. Proposed amendments and resolutions

shall be submitted via a digital form to the Resolutions Committee no later than June 1st, 2020. The national office shall make the digital form for submissions available through the national website.

21. Resolutions should consist primarily of statements of policy or outlines for organizational activity. This may include campaign initiatives, the formation of national bodies, direction for local activity or structure, or statements of support that may help guide the NCC in their direction of the affairs of the organization.
22. All constitutional amendments and resolutions shall be submitted electronically to the Resolutions Committee.
23. The Resolutions Committee shall submit a report to the national office containing all primary submissions in time for their inclusion in the June 21st Member's Bulletin.
24. Amendments to submissions shall be submitted digitally no later than July 1st, 2020. The Resolutions Committee shall work to reconcile any out of order or overlapping submissions as it sees fit under the same guidelines enumerated in Rule 7, Section A. Sponsors of the original submission may decide whether or not they consider an amendment to their submission to be friendly.
25. After July 1st, 2020, the national office shall distribute to all Convention delegates an online form listing all constitutional amendments and all resolutions, each resolution grouped together with its proposed amendments as a single item. The delegates will be allowed 48 hours to rank the items in terms of which should be allotted the most time for debate. The Convention Planning Team will allot greater time for debate and earlier scheduling to those with higher priority, unless a logical need to vote on some item before another demands different ordering. The Resolutions Committee shall submit a report to the National Office containing all primary and secondary submissions no later than July 22nd for their inclusion in the Final Member's Bulletin to be distributed at the Convention.

NCC Elections

26. In order to be considered an eligible candidate for the NCC, a candidate must:
 - a. Be a member (as defined in Rule 1)
 - b. Receive no fewer than five (5) nominations from individual members.
 - c. Be 29 years of age or younger.
 - d. Review and agree to the YDSA Collective Accountability Agreement.
 - e. Accept their nomination.
27. All candidates for NCC are expected to comply with the rules outlined in the YDSA and DSA constitutions and bylaws and publicly disclose any past or current political affiliations upon acceptance of their nomination that may be reasonably considered pertinent to the conditions of their election.
28. Candidates who are eligible for nomination and receive the adequate number of nominations will be asked to accept their nomination in the form of a digital candidate questionnaire submitted to the national office. Eligible candidates for NCC will be asked to report how they self-identify for the purposes of parity. All information collected via this digital form will be made available to the membership. This questionnaire will also ask candidates to declare either for the office of "Co-Chair" or "At-Large".
29. The deadline for submission of nominations for the NCC shall be the end of Wednesday, July 1st, 2020.
30. The names of all candidates, along with their answers to the candidate questionnaire, will be published and distributed in the final Convention Bulletin, along with their nominations. If their nominations exceed five (5), only the first five (5) nominations chronologically will be published.

31. The national office will be responsible for confirming eligible candidates and their inclusion in the Convention Bulletin.
32. Contested elections for office shall be conducted by online ballots.
33. The election for the NCC Co-Chairs shall be conducted by ranked-choice voting and the election for the NCC At-Large Members shall be conducted by single transferable vote. The Presidium shall count the ballots. All ballots from which the voter's preference can be clearly determined shall be counted, except that no "bullet" voting (voting for fewer candidates than the number of positions to fill) shall be allowed. The candidate(s) with the highest number of total votes, after the application of all parity requirements as stipulated by YDSA constitution have been applied, shall be declared elected. Ballots are not secret.
34. Co-Chair and At-Large candidate elections will be held separately. Candidates who run for election as Co-Chair who are not elected may be added to the pool of At-Large candidates if they so choose.

Regional Organizing Committee co-chair Elections

35. In order to be considered an eligible candidate for a Regional Organizing Committee (ROC) co-chair position a candidate must:
 - a. Be a member (as defined in Rule 1)
 - b. Be a member of a chapter within the region they are seeking election in.
 - c. Receive no fewer than two (2) nominations from individual members.
 - d. Be 29 years of age or younger.
 - e. Review and agree to the YDSA Collective Accountability Agreement.
 - f. Accept their nomination.
36. All ROC co-chair candidates are expected to comply with the rules outlined in the YDSA and DSA constitutions and bylaws and publicly disclose any past or current political affiliations upon acceptance of their nomination that may be reasonably considered pertinent to the conditions of their election.
37. Candidates who are eligible for nomination and receive the adequate number of nominations will be asked to accept their nomination in the form of a digital candidate questionnaire submitted to the national office. All information collected via this digital form will be made available to the membership.
38. The deadline for submission of nominations for the ROC co-chairs shall be the end of Wednesday, July 1st, 2020.
39. The names of all candidates, along with their answers to the candidate questionnaire, will be published and distributed in the final Convention Bulletin, along with their nominations. If their nominations exceed two (2), only the first two (2) nominations chronologically will be published.
40. The national office will be responsible for confirming eligible candidates and their inclusion in the Convention Bulletin.
41. Contested elections for office shall be conducted by paper ballots.
42. Each seated delegate shall only vote in the ROC co-chair election for the region that their chapter falls within. The regions are divided as follows:
 - a. Northeast: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Washington D.C.

- b. Southeast: Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas
 - c. Midwest: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri
 - d. West: Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, Hawaii
43. The election for ROC co-chairs shall be conducted by preferential ballot. The Presidium shall count the ballots. In counting the ballots each #1 choice shall be accorded a number of votes equal to the number of positions to be elected, each #2 choice shall be accorded a number of votes equal to one less than the number of positions to be elected. All ballots from which the voter's preference can be clearly determined shall be counted, except that no "bullet" voting (voting for fewer candidates than the number of positions to fill) shall be allowed. The candidate(s) with the highest number of total votes, after the application of all parity requirements as stipulated by YDSA constitution have been applied, shall be declared elected. Ballots are not secret.

Presidium

Anna Bonomo, YDSA Field Organizer, Metro DC DSA

Ben Davis, Metro DC DSA

Graham Denevan, East Bay DSA

Michelle Fisher, Madison DSA

Sandy Barnard, Chicago DSA

Walker Green, Metro DC DSA

Resolutions

R1: Adopting a National Tasks and Perspectives Document for YDSA: Passed 91 yes-11 no

Sponsor: **Kristen Cervero**, *NYU YDSA*

Co-sponsors: **Griffin Mahon**, *YDSA at University of Virginia*

Neah Havens *Western Washington University YDSA*

Whereas, as the youth wing of Democratic Socialists America, the largest socialist organization in the United States in nearly a century, YDSA has a unique role to play in the US left, as a force that can activate, educate, and train young people to become lifelong socialist organizers. YDSA is unique among student organizations in that we recognize our power comes not from our position as students, but as current and future members of the working class, and that our fight does not stop at the borders of our campuses or end when we graduate. As socialists, our strategy should be focused on elevating class consciousness and building the power and organization of the working class to extract concessions from the ruling class and eventually overturn capitalism itself. By engaging in rigorous political education and campaigning for concrete, widely-felt demands that shift the balance of power between capitalists and workers, YDSA members can build our skills as organizers and political thinkers, allowing us to reach and radicalize our fellow students, build stronger chapters, and prepare ourselves for lifetimes of commitment to militant socialist struggle.

Whereas, the widely disparate conditions on campuses across the country, the built-in rapid turnover imposed by graduation, and the general lack of clear organizational priorities have led to uneven development among chapters and a lack of coordination between chapters and national leadership.

Whereas, YDSA should take steps toward cohering an identity as a national organization, determining shared priorities and perspectives, and developing layers of trained organizers and leaders who can work together to build the base for a youth wing of a future mass party.

Whereas, YDSA should publicly declare the positions taken by the organization after the resurgence of the socialist movement and several conventions, including our commitments to building a fighting, democratic labor movement and the centrality of the labor movement to all socialist struggles; our support for reforms such as Medicare for All, College for All, a Green New Deal, and other demands that empower working people, nationalize key sectors of the economy, and counter austerity; and our understanding of the relationship between the fight for socialism and the struggles against racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and other forms of oppression.

Therefore be it resolved that YDSA will create a national Tasks and Perspectives document (hereafter known as “the document”) clarifying YDSA’s principles, priorities, and theory of change. This public-facing document will serve as a statement of purpose for the organization, and help to clarify organizational priorities, inform the creation of political education and propaganda materials, and provide direction for campaigns at the chapter level.

Be it further resolved that the YDSA NCC will form a Tasks and Perspectives Committee (hereafter known as “the Committee”) to create a document within one month of the 2020 convention. The document will be informed by the resolutions passed at the 2020 convention.

Be it further resolved that the preambulatory clauses of this resolution will be the foundations of the “Perspectives,” although they are subject to change by the Committee insofar as they agree with the spirit of resolutions adopted at convention.

Be it further resolved that the document will be made available to chapter leaders for a comment and suggestion period of no more than one month, during which chapters will be encouraged to discuss the document and give feedback on its contents, which will be used to inform the Committee's drafting process. Once the Committee incorporates any necessary changes, the Committee will make the document and any feedback available to the YDSA NCC, which will then vote to adopt or amend the Tasks and Perspectives Document.

Be it further resolved that the adopted document will be made immediately available to all YDSA members via email, and will be posted publicly on the YDSA website.

Be it further resolved that this document should be the basis for a national YDSA call open to all members to discuss the role of YDSA in the socialist movement and the role of students in the struggle for socialism.

Be it further resolved that upon adoption of the Tasks and Perspectives document, YDSA chapters should be encouraged and/or expected to hold a chapter-wide strategy discussion about how best to relate to the national Tasks and Perspectives. The committee will provide, in addition to the completed document, a one-pager with guidance on how to hold such discussions.

Be it finally resolved that YDSA calls on the DSA National Political Committee to create a process to adopt a similar strategy document.

R2: Building A National Youth Activist Coalition (Not Voted On)

Sponsors: Nate Stewart *UMBC YDSA*

Co-sponsors: Elias Khoury *YDSA at the University of Michigan*
Sonia Borenstein *UMBC YDSA*

WHEREAS, there exists hundreds of thousands if not millions of youth activists in the United States with goals in line with our own but not yet organized through or with the YDSA

WHEREAS, on the local level many YDSA chapters have found success in working in coalitions with many of these activists

WHEREAS, regardless of who wins the 2020 presidential election we will be faced with a president who pushes and anti-youth and anti-worker agenda

WHEREAS, in the wake of emerging crises of capitalism there is a clear and present need to establish a coalition of student and youth activist organizations on the national level to coordinate our struggles and build on our strengths

WHEREAS, such a coalition can put the YDSA not in a position to dominate the American student left but instead to democratically push the movement to the Left while building our own power

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the NCC is empowered to appoint an official representative for the purpose of organizing a NATIONAL COALITION of YOUTH ACTIVISTS

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this COALITION shall be formed not only to meet the needs of national YDSA campaigns but also in recognition that the current and foreseeable future of the political moment we find ourselves in requires the ongoing and active participation of the entirety of the student Left and that such a COALITION can provide the means to coordinate desperately needed activist campaigns

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above mentioned representative is instructed to adhere to the following guidelines in establishing the aforementioned COALITION:

The constituency of this COALITION should be limited to organizations and individuals who identify as “youth activists,” “student activists,” or otherwise identify themselves within the intersection between activism and the youth.

The constituency of this COALITION should prioritize (though not necessarily limit itself to) organizations that have endorsed Bernie Sanders.

The member organizations of this COALITION should be granted the right to veto decisions made by this COALITION that they find at odds with the mission of their organizations

Entry of organizations in this COALITION must be agreed upon unanimously by all other organizations in the COALITION.

There must be a mechanism to democratically expel member organizations found to be at odds with the goals of this COALITION.

The autonomy of member organizations must be respected while allowing the member organizations of the COALITION to coordinate synergistically to advance our common goals

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that provisional membership of the YDSA within this COALITION can be confirmed by a vote of the NCC upon its establishment to then be approved at the next National Convention after that vote.

R3: Call for a Popular Coalition: Failed 18 yes - 81 no

Sponsors: Emerson Bannon *Miami University*
Co-sponsors: Timothy Novak D'Agostino *Miami University*
Alex Musser *Miami University*

WHEREAS, the national movement requires bold action and cooperation between those in favor of advancing socialism and justice,

AND WHEREAS, our organization must expand the leftist network to better operate within the movement,

AND WHEREAS, we must advance our causes beyond electoral campaigning,

AND WHEREAS, chapters should better operations and effectiveness by working with other local groups,

AND WHEREAS, in the current uprising we have seen the necessity of bettering our response to and cooperation with mass movements, especially relating to racial justice,"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that YDSA make a call to establish a nationwide coalition of organizations, bound by a shared desire for social and economic justice, as well as opposition to capitalism/corporatism and the far-right. This coalition should operate with direct action in addition to electoral matters.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon agreement of at least five (5) national organizations to pursue this project, an introductory meeting should be created to develop the structure for this coalition and its rules of governance, including the capacity for representation to national and local groups to allow for different organizations to buy in to the hard work of creating a national coalition.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the aforementioned first meeting, the Coalition should decide upon a pertinent campaign to pursue, with a focus on the current uprisings for Black lives and the goals of demilitarizing, defunding, and disbanding police departments, of which YDSA should stress the dismantling of school police departments.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Popular Coalition must convene and collaborate regularly as pursuant with the pressing issues of the day, along with any emergency sessions, to decide upon a campaign to pursue to maintain efficacy and use for the organizational structure created by this resolution.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Popular Coalition must organize locally, connecting DSA and YDSA chapters to other local activist groups — either national or local — to pursue specific policy demands and campaign strategies pursuant to the national strategy decided upon democratically.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Popular Coalition should periodically discuss and pursue deeper relations to organize the future base of an independent mass worker's party, pursuant to the 2019 DSA Convention's Resolution #31.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the YDSA encourages the NPC and individual DSA chapters to heed this call and promote the formation and operation of this coalition.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the YDSA creates/delegates a committee or position with the purpose advancing the coalition as described above.

R4: Call for a Sixth International (Not Voted On)

Sponsors: Emerson Bannon *Miami University*

Co-sponsors: Timothy Novak D'Agostino *Miami University*

Alex Musser *Miami University*

WHEREAS, we face an unprecedented global threat in the multifaceted form of the climate crisis, neofascism, global corporate hegemony, backsliding of democracy and human rights, erosion of civil liberties, extreme inequality, the lasting legacy of colonialism and white supremacy, imperialist conflicts, continued undermining of indigenous rights, and a global weakening of labor unions and other checks to capital's power,

AND WHEREAS, Socialist International has become increasingly reformist and cooperative with neoliberalism and capitalism,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that YDSA issues a call to form a new International to act as an international body of leftist parties and party like organizations to address the global crises as outlined above.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that YDSA calls upon the International Committee to explore, with an open debate within YDSA on larger political questions to be conducted with the NPEC, and create a document outlining the points of political unity and organizational mechanisms for the international to be proposed to invited members.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that YDSA should request that DSA allot at least one representative to the International Committee to give members representation in creating this International and future work to activate youth sections of the affiliated parties or organizations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this new International should take a focus upon activating youth sections and exploring ways in which the youth can push for anti-capitalist causes both electorally and through direct action.

Amendment to Resolution 4 (Not Voted On)

Sponsor: Robin Jones, NYU

This amendment would replace all resolved clauses

New Language:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the YDSA begins working toward the formation of an international body of leftist youth and student organizations, including but not limited to youth wings of mass leftist political parties, to address the global crises as outlined above.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that existing brainstorming documents toward this end produced by the YDSA Internationalism Committee can serve as the initial basis for mapping potential international partners.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that YDSA may connect with the DSA Internationalism Committee to draw on their existing connections with like minded organizations globally which have youth and student wings, subject to the discretion of organizers involved.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that YDSA develops a mechanism by which members studying abroad or with other (e.g. familial, personal) ties outside of the US can connect with socialist and left-wing movements in these countries to build a relationship between them and YDSA.

R5: Campaign in Solidarity for Black Lives: Passed adopted by unanimous consent

Sponsors: **Ruy Martinez** *Harvard College YDSA*

Co-sponsors: **Ben Roberts** *Harvard College YDSA*

Dustin Junk *University of Texas at Austin YDSA*

WHEREAS, the murder of George Floyd by Derek Chauvin has brought about a state of revolt and protest in most large US cities due to the brutal and racist state of police in our country;

WHEREAS, socialist organizations should give full support to the protests being called by criminal justice and Black organizations while also raising a socialist policy that will help build class consciousness towards the eventual abolition of capitalism;

WHEREAS, full support involves organizing YDSA and DSA members to go out in protests with their own socialist policy for a full mobilization;

WHEREAS, YDSA and DSA have been historically majority-white organizations, though with many talented Black and POC organizers manifesting into caucuses, and therefore may be disconnected from their local Black community organizers;

RESOLVED, that YDSA calls upon DSA to begin a national campaign supporting the demands that DSA has, including the #8toabolition and other policy demands officially decided upon by DSA;

RESOLVED, that the aforementioned campaign should be done in close cooperation, but not entirely by, the existing DSA Afrosocialist and Socialists of Color Caucus at the national and local level, which may include organizing a dedicated Afrosocialist and Socialists of Color Caucus at the local chapter level;

RESOLVED, that YDSA calls upon DSA to not only begin this campaign, but put resources into creating materials to distribute to local chapters for this purpose;

RESOLVED, that YDSA must pursue its own national campaign formulated towards students at high schools, and universities with its own distinct materials such as banners, literature, stickers, buttons, and so on, based on the platform that YDSA adopts on this issue;

RESOLVED, that YDSA recommends in addition to any aforementioned demands, that students on campus should take particular focus on creating a local campaign to expel or defund police forces from their campuses, whether that is 'Student Resource Officers' in high schools or private police departments such as at universities like Drexel and Harvard;

RESOLVED, that local YDSA chapters engaging in these campaigns should seek to build coalitions when possible or united fronts with their local DSA chapter, nearby YDSA chapters, local abolitionist movements, prison divestment campaigns, progressive organizations, criminal justice advocates, unions and their workers — especially on campus, while retaining the same bold demands;

RESOLVED, that strategically, YDSA chapters should help organize power-mapping and issue-cutting sessions within their coalitions to investigate the most effective ways to locally protest and pressure the administration at the city and school level, along with a general principle of gaining support within the coalition for a socialist vision through struggling in solidarity with fellow workers and activists;

RESOLVED, that YDSA chapters should seek to connect with fellow radical activists on campus to create a more powerful future YDSA through one on one dialogues, platforming of abolitionist activists, leadership calls, active participation in demonstrations, and so on to encourage organizational cohesion and potential membership growth of already active organizers;

RESOLVED, that YDSA chapters should engage in an orientation towards the less active but still supportive students and broader community members who are appalled by the current situation via a different strategy of individual conversations, bold op-eds on campus newspapers, town halls with organizers, dispersing of materials during actions, organized petitions, social media presences by members, to not only gain support, but to encourage members that through political engagement guided by a commitment to socialism can this capitalist police-state be defeated;

RESOLVED, that to manage a campaign on this scale and with this importance, the NCC should establish a committee with the goal of providing educational and organizational support on the topic of creating a successful campaign both at the national and local levels;

- A. This committee should primarily focus on the following issues by creating subcommittees on:
 - a. Training: Local chapters will need extensive training and support to not only win the campaign, but to seriously begin it. The Training subcommittee should establish one on one conversations and encouragement to local leadership so that chartered YDSA chapters are in some capacity engaging with the movement, hold educational calls, create educational materials on the aforementioned strategic orientations (with the Materials subcommittee providing support), and political education on the broader theory of capitalist police in their relation to a fight for socialism.
 - b. Materials: To design the aforementioned materials and distribute them, a Materials subcommittee must be made. Materials should not only take the form of physical deliverables, but also videos and social media hashtags, with use of commissions to support artists. They will also work with the Training subcommittee on their needs for accessible training materials.
 - c. Strategy: A Strategy subcommittee should focus upon analyzing recent trends, gathering reports once every two weeks from chapters, and creating an updated strategy or successful trend mapping document for chapters to analyze. It also should create a larger debrief before the 2021 YDSA Convention.

RESOLVED, that, if the “Students and Workers Relief” resolution passes, then instead of setting up a separate national committee as outlined above, these two campaigns will be streamlined into a single, coordinated national campaign to be carried out by the NCC, ROCs (or NOC), and relevant subcommittees, and that the same outreach and organizing strategies (such as one-on-ones, workshops, trainings, etc.) will be used to support chapters running local campaigns based on any of these nationwide demands. Through those national outreach calls and workshops, chapters should be encouraged to situate demands relating to police defunding within the framework

of other anti-austerity demands, as well as to center racial justice and anti-policing demands within the context of their anti-austerity campaigns whenever possible.

Amendment to Resolution 5: Passed 90 yes - 25 no

Sponsor: Emmaline Bennett, Columbia University

This Amendment added the following text as a final resolved clause:

RESOLVED, that, if the “Students and Workers Relief” resolution passes, then instead of setting up a separate national committee as outlined above, these two campaigns will be streamlined into a single, coordinated national campaign to be carried out by the NCC, ROCs (or NOC), and relevant subcommittees, and that the same outreach and organizing strategies (such as one-on-ones, workshops, trainings, etc.) will be used to support chapters running local campaigns based on any of these nationwide demands. Through those national outreach calls and workshops, chapters should be encouraged to situate demands relating to police defunding within the framework of other anti-austerity demands, as well as to center racial justice and anti-policing demands within the context of their anti-austerity campaigns whenever possible.

R6: Campus Labor Organizing: 113 yes - 1 no

Sponsors: Autumn Pickett *YDSA Purdue*

Co-sponsors: Jacob Wartel *YDSA University of Virginia*

Nikhil Pailoor *YDSA Georgia Tech*

WHEREAS, while the role of student occupies a unique material position, many students exist simultaneously as laborers;

AND WHEREAS, just as students have no reason to delay socialist organizing until after graduation, student-workers naturally have no reason to delay participation in workplace organizing;

AND WHEREAS, the university and surrounding communities often relies in heavy part on the participation of a student workforce;

AND WHEREAS, the greater working class includes student-workers, and therefore share material interests;

AND WHEREAS, the labor force at educational institutions is largely unorganized, and as such is particularly vulnerable to the incoming wave of austerity;

AND WHEREAS, engaging directly in labor organizing at natural points of class struggle, builds the experience of YDSA members to carry forward that organizing beyond graduation;

AND WHEREAS, the practice of industrialization has both historically had mixed results, and orients socialists as outsiders seeking to enter into the working class;

AND WHEREAS, YDSA members are already, with few exceptions, existing members of the working class

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that YDSA establish Labor organizing as a key priority within the Students and Workers Recovery campaign;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ROCs, or if the National Organizing Committee (NOC) passes, then the NOC, commit to the creation of trainings, materials, and strategies development towards organizing labor as it organically exists around campus settings;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ROCs, shall hold a minimum of 1 mass meeting of YDSA chapter representatives per semester to assess the labor conditions on campuses across the country, and include such assessments in semesterly reports;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the ROCs shall work with each chapter to assess the conditions of labor and draft a formal local labor strategy;

R7: Developing a Robust National Political Education Program: Passed

101 yes - 3 no

Sponsors: **Emmaline Bennett** *Columbia-Barnard*

Co-sponsors: **Josh Kuh** *Kalamazoo*
Michael Stenovec *UCLA*

Whereas, rigorous political education is crucial for developing our members into lifelong socialist thinkers and organizers, and should be implemented in all chapters.

Whereas, robust chapter political education programs help onboard newer members and give them the confidence necessary to become core organizers of their chapter, and bolster the confidence of existing core members by encouraging them to lead and participate in political discussion.

Whereas, incorporating political education into YDSA chapter meetings helps spark debate and discussion among membership, and encourages members to think of their local campaign work in a way that is closely informed by YDSA's overall socialist vision.

Whereas, YDSA members rarely, if ever, discuss and debate politics with people outside their chapter, often creating uneven political development between chapters and a lack of shared strategic vision and goals.

Whereas, YDSA members should be trained to confidently and productively facilitate political discussions. Facilitation is a skill that is essential for successful political education meetings, but is also necessary in many other organizing contexts.

Therefore be it resolved that the NPEC will be tasked with creating a reading list for new members, covering a wide range of topics aimed at providing a grounding in socialist politics, along with a set of complimentary new media pieces (videos, infographics, etc) to help introduce ideas to people who have difficulty with reading. The process for creating this syllabus will be directed by the NPEC, with any YDSA member able to submit suggestions for readings or topics to cover via an open submission process. This reading list will provide the basis for new member political education at the chapter level, although the membership of individual chapters can choose to alter the syllabus at their discretion. The media created will be aimed at articulating key points from the reading list to new members. This new member political education at the chapter level can either take the form of one-on-one mentorships between older members and newer members, or of small discussion groups outside of the general meeting schedule. The NPEC will also prepare materials designed to help older members teach the syllabus and discuss material with newer members at the chapter level.

Be it further resolved that all chapters should be encouraged to incorporate political education into their general meeting schedule. This might involve alternating between organizing meetings and political education meetings week-by-week, or including both a political education and an organizing component within each general meeting, or some combination of different approaches; the membership of each chapter should feel free to experiment with whatever method works best for them. The NPEC will include materials on how to incorporate political education into a regular meeting schedule as part of the Night School handbook, and will offer mentorship and training for members who wish to become facilitators.

Be it further resolved that this chapter-level political education will be supplemented with regular national calls focused on the topics presented in the readings, using a break-out group format to allow for maximum participation among individual YDSA members across chapters.

Be it further resolved that the NPEC will regularly organize multiple week-long virtual political education intensives on different subjects of socialist theory and strategy for members across the country to take part in. These intensives will have a central curriculum planned by the NPEC and then carried out by trained facilitators in

smaller groups of YDSAers. The smaller groupings should have members from all different chapters to facilitate cross-chapter political discussion and debate.

Be it further resolved that the NPEC will also provide training and guidance for regional political education initiatives (e.g. in cities or states with a high concentration of YDSA chapters), encouraging members of more experienced chapters to train facilitators in newer chapters.

Be it further resolved that the NPEC will also hold at least one call per semester on how to host night schools. These calls will help identify YDSA members who are willing and able to serve as facilitators for national calls and focused intensives. Members interested in facilitating will be mentored by members of the NPEC.

R8: District Organizations: Passed 83 yes - 19 no

Sponsors: **Nikhil Pailoor** *YDSA Georgia Tech*

Co-sponsors: **Jacob Wartel** *YDSA University of Virginia*

Autumn Pickett *YDSA Purdue*

Whereas, socialism cannot be won on a university campus;

Whereas, class struggle is waged at all levels, including the citywide, statewide, and region-wide scales;

Whereas, forming leading coalitions for struggles require active buy-in from participating organizations,

Whereas, YDSA should seek to lead struggles for the working-class with coalition partners, while maintaining the independent nature of the socialist movement;

Whereas, YDSA chapters have explored forming citywide, statewide, and regional organizations;

Therefore be it resolved, any 3 or more YDSA chapters or organizing committees, including at least one YDSA chapter, may apply to the NCC to charter a District Organization. District Organization charters must be renewed on the same schedule as YDSA chapters. District Organizations shall be formed on geographical bases, including city, state, or region;

Be it further resolved, DSA chapters may formally affiliate with District Organizations, and vice versa;

Be it further resolved, District Organizations shall submit proposed bylaws and a mission statement with a charter application. Such bylaws must include provisions for democratic decision-making and leadership accountability for all member organizations. The NCC shall create and release sample District Organization bylaws and may determine required language;

Be it further resolved, District Organizations will receive support from an assigned YDSA national organizer, such as a member of the NOC;

Be it further resolved, District Organizations should not be formed for their own sake, but rather as a means to facilitate organizing work at a scale greater than a single campus, including:

- * Collective fundraising for large expenditures, such as convention and conference travel
- * The development and release of district-level political lines and statements
- * Organization of district-level political campaigns
- * Administrative coordination with DSA chapters

R9: Dues Standardization: Passed 92 yes - 16 no

Sponsors: Nate Knauf *YDSA Georgia Tech*

Co-sponsors: Remi Mickle *YDSA Purdue*

Sumter Alton *YDSA Georgia Tech*

Whereas, membership in the national organization is well defined, but there is no guidance for chapters on how to determine who is a ""member"" and granted rights within their local chapters;

And whereas, membership practices vary wildly between chapters, many of which, especially smaller and newer chapters, do not maintain membership rosters;

And whereas, the disunity of local and national membership creates unnecessary hierarchy within chapters and tension between chapters and the national organization;

And whereas, maintaining clear membership terms, rights and responsibilities promotes a more accessible and democratic organization, and maintaining a membership roster is an essential asset for internal membership development and external membership recruitment;

And whereas, sourcing funds primarily from membership dues ensures accountability of the organization to its membership, and promotes member confidence in the organization;

And whereas, YDSA functions in part as an organizer development and training program for DSA and is a youth section of DSA, not a separate organization;

Be it further resolved, that YDSA holds that it is permissible for chapters to adopt additional requirements for chapter membership, including but not limited to:

- Agreement with a code of conduct or a political document

- Completion of a candidate membership period

Be it further resolved, that the National Office shall establish an online YDSA membership signup form, which shall grant one-year DSA memberships and include information about how to obtain a dues waiver. The National Office shall remove the "Student/YDSA" dues rates from the DSA membership form. DSA memberships obtained through the YDSA form shall be considered the same as any other DSA membership, although dues deadlines and expiration dates regarding voting rights in YDSA chapters shall be determined by the YDSA chapter. While the YDSA form shall grant a one-year DSA membership, the NCC shall consider adding the following suggested dues rates to the YDSA form, with the intent of semesterly records being kept by chapter officers, not the National Office:

- A "one year" rate between \$10 and \$20

- A "one semester" rate between \$5 and \$10

Be it further resolved, the National Office shall investigate methods to allow chapter treasurers to collect national dues at the chapter level, then submit payment and membership information to the national organization on a new member's behalf;

Be it further resolved, that the NCC shall oversee the creation of fundraising guidance for YDSA chapters, including template language to apply to university institutions for funding for costs associated with attending Conferences and Conventions;

Be it further resolved, that YDSA calls on DSA chapters, especially larger and more established chapters, to consider providing YDSA chapters with semesterly budgets as an investment in recruitment and organizational development, partially sourced from dues-share revenue from dues-paying YDSA members

Be it further resolved, YDSA reaffirms that no potential member should ever be denied membership for lack of ability to pay, and that the YDSA NCC should strive to be flexible with YDSA chapters who may have to implement different dues systems because of local conditions, such as restrictive university policy.

R10: Empowering the National Political Education Committee: Passed

93 yes - 1 no

Sponsors: Nate Knauf, *YDSA Georgia Tech*

Co-sponsors: Jack Zhang, *Exeter YDSA*

Griffin Mahon, *YDSA at University of Virginia*

Whereas, The National Political Education Committee has been one of the most effective committees in YDSA for the past year, and has successfully created and published a Socialist Night School Syllabus and accompanying materials, and a print edition of *The Activist*, as well as regular blog posts of articles and chapter reports written by YDSA members from 20 different chapters,

Whereas, there are no clear mechanisms for the NPEC to contact chapters in order to help implement night school programs or gather information on which chapters have or have not implemented political education programs, or to solicit feedback on political education materials from YDSA's membership,

Whereas, YDSA is uniquely positioned to reach young, working class people who are not yet involved in the socialist movement, and the NPEC has already laid the groundwork for the creation of digital propaganda and tabling literature in accordance with our existing syllabi.

Therefore be it resolved, the NPEC shall be held accountable to the NCC and should include at least 1 NCC member. The NPEC shall be free to create and publish materials and statements derived from political lines and priorities set by the YDSA NCC and DSA NPC. The NPEC shall have no authority to set political lines for the organization but may make recommendations to the YDSA NCC.

Be it further resolved, the NPEC should work with national elected leadership to survey the YDSA membership about political education needs, and maintain contact with chapters in order to help implement night schools and receive feedback. This survey will also gather feedback about and gauge interest in *The Activist*.

Be it further resolved, The NPEC should be responsible for the creation and distribution of outward-facing communications and propaganda as well as political education materials. It should be expanded to include the work of the current YDSA Design Committee and Media committee, such as responsibility for managing the organization's Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, other social media websites, and media requests, as well as the publication of public statements pertaining to YDSA's work and positions. The social media team should develop guidelines for content and a method for collecting and posting social media statements that is reasonably transparent and accountable.

Amendment to Resolution 10: Failed 18 yes - 76 no

Sponsor: Nate Stewart, *UMBC YDSA*

This amendment would replace the final resolved clause.

Proposed text:

Be it further resolved that the NPEC shall be responsible for the creation and distribution of outward-facing communications and propaganda as well as political education materials. As such it shall be expanded to include

1. The YDSA Design and Media Committee
2. The Social Media Committee
3. The YDSA Media Desk

R11: Establishing a YDSA Rank-and-File Pipeline: Passed 83 yes - 19 no

Sponsors: Griffin Mahon *University of Virginia*

Co-sponsors: Dahlia Wilson *Albany High School*

Nickan Fayyazi *University of California - Berkeley*

Whereas, the labor movement must be central to any socialist strategy due to the structural power of the organized working class to extract concessions from the ruling class and the fact that unions are some of the most diverse working class institutions in the country. Labor organizing is both core to building socialist power and rooting the socialist movement in the multi-racial working class.

Whereas, to rebuild the American labor and socialist movements, and to merge the two, socialists must have an orientation toward building shop floor power and developing a layer of rank-and-file leaders who can organize in the workplace on a day-to-day basis, often called the Rank-and-File Strategy (RFS). One key tactic of the RFS is having socialists take jobs in strategic, and often unionized, industries and workplaces.

Whereas, YDSA has a particular role within the socialist movement to develop life-long committed socialist organizers and send them into broader socialist and workplace struggles. YDSAers, who often have not yet started careers, are in a unique position to carry out the tactic of taking a rank-and-file union job in a strategic industry upon graduation, and in some unique situations, while still in school. Other YDSA members may be entering sectors where unionization is low, but where socialists can play a leading role in cohering and activating a militant minority, carrying out successful union drives, and increasing class consciousness among their coworkers.

Whereas, a number of YDSAers have already committed to pursuing the RFS as individuals, but have not had organizational support in this pursuit. By providing organizational support, those pursuing the RFS will be provided with mentorship, guidance, and a network of other socialists similarly pursuing the RFS in their industry.

Whereas, many YDSA members are unable to industrialize or salt, but should nonetheless be provided with a socialist understanding of and orientation toward the labor movement. In all different conditions, YDSAers should be encouraged and supported to take up efforts to support labor struggles in their campuses and communities, and should be provided with the knowledge, perspective, and connections to engage in new organizing in their workplaces after graduating.

Therefore be it resolved, YDSA will renew its commitment to the rank-and-file strategy as it was prioritized in National DSA Resolution 32, which emphasizes that the central focus of socialists “should be on identifying and developing a layer of rank-and-file leaders who can organize in the workplace on a day-to-day basis.”

Resolved, YDSA’s NCC will establish the YDSA National Labor Committee (NLC) within two months of the 2020 YDSA National Convention.

Resolved, the NLC will consist of, but not be limited to, at least five committee members: one chair and four at-large committee members; and from these 5 members, 2 shall be appointed as Democratic Socialist Labor Commission (DSLSC) Steering Committee Representatives.

Resolved, the YDSA NLC will work with the National Political Education Committee (NPEC) and the DLSC to develop political education materials about the history and current landscape of the labor movement (and the role socialists continue to play in it), the pitfalls of business unionism, and examples of rank-and-file militancy, by

1. Working with the National Political Education Committee to develop a curriculum around labor organizing and the rank-and-file strategy as part of the YDSA School of Socialism
2. Running a national speaking tour for DSA labor organizers to speak to YDSA chapters in their region.
3. Prioritizing labor as a topic for NPEC national calls

Resolved, the NLC, working, where relevant, with DSA's DSLC, will focus on building out a national YDSA rank-and-file graduation pipeline that will facilitate the process of connecting YDSAers with rank-and-file jobs in strategic industries, to be determined by the NLC, or salting opportunities upon graduation.

Resolved, the YDSA rank-and-file graduation pipeline will consist of, but not be limited to,

1. A yearly survey of all YDSA members to map out if members are interested in entering the labor movement upon graduation and which industries/in what capacity
 - a. This yearly survey data, along with information about DSA chapters with strong labor formations, should be used to map out "hot spots," prioritizing state schools, community colleges, trade schools, and HBCUs/HSIs and connecting them to their local DSA labor formation
2. Developing more pamphlets and educational materials like "Why Socialists Should Become Teachers" for more strategic industries such as logistics, healthcare, and others
3. Hosting national interest calls geared toward different industries with panels of rank-and-file organizers in the respective industry
4. Hosting more in-depth and recurring rank-and-file schools for YDSAers nearing graduation who are seriously considering entering rank-and-file union jobs in strategic industries or salting unorganized workplaces, to connect them with labor organizers in the respective industry. These schools should cover the history of organizing in the industry and the contemporary terrain, provide workplace-specific organizing trainings, guide YDSAers in applying for these jobs, and connect them with pre-existing rank-and-file networks, caucuses, and organizers

Resolved, for YDSAers unsure of committing to a career directly upon graduation, but still interested in building rank-and-file power and the labor movement, the National Labor Committee should work to connect YDSAers with unions with strong salting or new organizing programs to help organize the unorganized.

Be it finally resolved, YDSA recommits to campus labor organizing as an organizational priority, but this organizing will be directed by the committees of relevant YDSA priority campaigns. When necessary, the NLC will help connect YDSA members on different campuses who are engaged in campus labor organizing with each other and with experienced DSA labor organizers, and may hold national calls on the topic of campus labor organizing.

R12: Growth and Diversification: Passed 110 yes - 1 no

Sponsors: **Labiba Chowdhury** *CCNY YDSA*
Co-sponsors: **Cerena Ermitanio** *UT Austin YDSA*
 Kristen Cervero *NYU YDSA*

Whereas, As the youth section of the country's largest socialist organization and in a time where there is mass unrest in response to racial injustice and police brutality, it is imperative that we do everything we can to be truly reflective of the working class.

Whereas, DSA as a whole has struggled with a lack of diversity, particularly in regards to race, thus hindering our ability to be reflective of the working class' multiracial nature.

Whereas, YDSA has found particular success in diversifying our organization in a way that also roots us in the working class by investing in developing chapters at community colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Minority Serving Institutions.

Whereas, YDSA has grown tremendously since 2016 from 12 to 115 chapters at high schools, universities, community colleges, and HBCUs.

Whereas, YDSA has proven itself to be a key component for growing and diversifying DSA and the socialist movement as a whole, and in order to achieve DSA's goal of 100,000-person membership, we must invest material resources into our organization.

Whereas, this is all to say we must intentionally recruit and train organizers at community colleges and HBCUs in particular so that we may improve our organizing, improve our representation of the working class, aid in unifying class struggle around both universal and particular struggles, and ultimately aid in creating a unified socialist movement that is anti-racist in action, and not only in name.

Therefore be it resolved, YDSA's National Coordinating Committee will be tasked with growing and diversifying our organization by, including but not limited to:

1. Providing resources and material support for chapters so they can help form chapters in nearby community colleges, HBCUs, and high schools. These resources may include trainings on how to canvass a school; how to develop leaders; and trainings on how to use these various materials.
2. Connecting YDSA chapters to corresponding DSA chapters in order to strengthen connections between YDSA and DSA chapters.
3. Pulling a list of DSA members who attend community colleges, HBCUs, and MSIs without YDSA chapters and executing targeted outreach towards these members in the hopes that they will establish chapters at their institutions.
4. Continuing to improve upon and execute the YDSA liaison program.
5. Continuing to collaborate with AFROSOC to build chapters at HBCUs.

Be it further resolved, DSA's Growth and Development committee is encouraged to thoughtfully and intentionally integrate YDSA into its 100K membership strategy.

Be it further resolved, YDSA calls upon DSA's National Political Committee to prioritize hiring a second full-time staffer for YDSA, as promised in the October 2019 NPC meeting. We encourage the NPC to strongly consider hiring a POC/Black organizer who will be better equipped to recruit and develop organizers at community colleges and HBCUs.

R13: Joe Biden and the November 2020 Presidential Election: Failed

23 yes - 82 no

Sponsors: **Bennett Burke** *University of Texas at Austin YDSA*

Co-sponsors: **Ruy Martinez** *Harvard College YDSA*

Dustin Junk *University of Texas at Austin YDSA*

WHEREAS, Joe Biden has been credibly accused of sexual assault on March 2020 by Alexandra Tara Reade, a former aide during Biden's time as the Senator from Delaware, in the spring of 1993;

WHEREAS, several DSA chapter socialist feminist working groups, along with others in DSA, [have called for Joe Biden to drop out of the race for the Democratic nomination](#) on the basis that beyond his alleged behavior, that "Joe Biden is replaceable, but the gains of #MeToo are not";

WHEREAS, it is antithetical for an organization committed to women's liberation to stay silent in the race while two alleged rapists are running;

WHEREAS, we are completely opposed to the right-wing agenda of Donald Trump and are committed to seeing him defeated in November while also being clear that Joe Biden represents the interests of big business and will be no friend of the multi-racial working class and all those oppressed by the capitalist system;

WHEREAS, many members of the working class engage with politics in large part with the Presidential election, and so engaging in those conversations will be a bridge towards engaging the vast majority of the working class disaffected with both main capitalist parties;

WHEREAS, according to the 2019 DSA Convention, Resolution 31, it is our goal to create an independent working class party in the future, and steps should reasonably be taken to achieve that goal;

WHEREAS, YDSA has played a part, historically as either YDSA chapters or former Students for Bernie chapters in organizing extensively for class-struggle elections such as the Sanders campaign, thereby having significant reason to make demands of the DSA leadership and in its own self-determination in this field;

RESOLVED, that YDSA endorses and calls on DSA to heed the [voice of the socialist feminist working groups of several chapters and others in DSA](#) calling "...on Joe Biden to leave the race. We also call on elected officials endorsed by the Democratic Socialists of America to rescind any endorsements of Joe Biden,";

RESOLVED, that YDSA also asks the elected officials to Congress who will be superdelegates at the Democratic Party National Convention to declare where they stand on this issue and call on them to join us in urging Biden to drop out of the race;

RESOLVED, within a month of passage of this resolution, the YDSA Co-chairs will email a ranked-choice ballot of endorsements to the convention delegates. This ballot shall have the choices: Howie Hawkins, Gloria La Riva, both Howie Hawkins and Gloria La Riva, or nobody. Proper arrangements must be made so the membership is familiar with both their platforms.

If a candidate(s) is endorsed, we call for people to vote for them in all "safe states", the large majority of the country where it is clear that the Democratic nominee or Trump will win that state, such as New York, California, or Mississippi, with consideration that "swing states" will become clearer in September and October;

RESOLVED, that YDSA calls upon the DSA National Political Committee and the YDSA National Coordinating Committee to organize a national discussion around the question of endorsing Howie Hawkins (Green Party) or

Gloria la Riva (Party of Socialism and Liberation) with expediency to allow both organizations to arrive at a decision;

RESOLVED, that we reaffirm the statement in DSA's 2019 Convention Resolution 31 calling for the creation of an independent working class party, and call upon YDSA members everywhere to build towards a "dirty break" from the Democratic Party, allowing us to use the Democratic Party ballot line where it is a real advantage to build working class power and promote democratic socialist ideas, such as when Bernie Sanders ran for the Democratic Party nomination in 2016 and 2020, while searching for opportunities to run independently of the Democrats and promote the future creation and growth of a mass, working class, democratic socialist party.

Amendment to Resolution 13: Failed 41 yes - 52 no

Sponsor: Robin Jones, NYU

This amendment would replace all resolution language

Proposed new language:

WHEREAS, Joe Biden has been credibly accused of sexual assault on March 2020 by Alexandra Tara Reade, a former aide during Biden's time as the Senator from Delaware, in the spring of 1993;

WHEREAS, several DSA chapter socialist feminist working groups, along with others in DSA, have called for Joe Biden to drop out of the race for the Democratic nomination on the basis that beyond his alleged behavior, that "Joe Biden is replaceable, but the gains of #MeToo are not";

WHEREAS, it is antithetical for an organization committed to women's liberation to stay silent in the race while two alleged rapists are running;

WHEREAS, YDSA has played a part, historically as either YDSA chapters or former Students for Bernie chapters in organizing extensively for class-struggle elections such as the Sanders campaign, thereby having significant reason to make demands of the DSA leadership and in its own self-determination in this field;

RESOLVED, that YDSA endorses and calls on DSA to heed the voice of the socialist feminist working groups of several chapters and others in DSA calling "...on Joe Biden to leave the race. We also call on elected officials endorsed by the Democratic Socialists of America to rescind any endorsements of Joe Biden,";

RESOLVED, that YDSA also asks the elected officials to Congress who will be superdelegates at the Democratic Party National Convention to declare where they stand on this issue and call on them to join us in urging Biden to drop out of the race.

R14: Local Leadership and Political Mentorship Initiative: Passed

87 yes - 2 no

Sponsors: Jack Zhang *Exeter YDSA*

Co-sponsors: Jeronimo Pinto *Mamaroneck High School YDSA*

Jake Keller *Montclair High School YDSA*

WHEREAS, young socialist organizers, especially those in high school, often receive no formal guidance in campaign strategy, organizational tactics, outreach, and, most critically, political education from their older peers in YDSA;

WHEREAS, many of these young socialist organizers do not receive regular training in political education from any source;

WHEREAS, these young socialist organizers, when left to organize on their own, often fail to develop political coherency, and as a result, fail to establish a broad-based and politically reliable YDSA chapter;

WHEREAS, the basic unit of YDSA, the local chapter, can only be meaningfully developed through effective local leadership and strong political education, both of which usually require mentorship to fully develop;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Coordinating Committee, Regional Organizing Committees, or any other appropriate nationally-elected organizational body will directly connect promising young socialists, especially those in high school, with more experienced mentors designated by the appropriate body on a systematic basis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Political Education Committee, expanding on its School of Socialism, will produce a set of foundational political-education materials at high-school levels of reading comprehension, designed for an audience that is interested in socialism and broadly left-wing politics, but does not yet grasp its theoretical economic foundations or proper organizational tactics;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sequential tasks of mentors will be approximately as follows, subject to the mentor's discretion:

To communicate frequently with the mentee.

Assist mentees in political development, possibly using the newly developed NPEC materials, both by answering one-off questions and engaging in regular educational socialist dialogue.

Teach mentees basic organizational tactics, drawing both on personal experience and from the NPEC's already-constructed organizing manual.

Help mentees adapt national campaigns to their campus.

Once the mentee's chapter is well-established, begin referring both the mentee and emerging natural leaders within their chapter to begin working directly with national structures through committees and initiatives. This should begin no more than a few months after first contact.

Remain open to political engagement and inter-chapter discussions and initiatives, even after the mentee has begun standing on their own as an organizer and leader.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of high school organizing, outreach, communications, and campaign work will be conducted under the auspices of the appropriate national committees, with guidance from volunteer mentors with direct experience organizing in the respective area;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a dedicated high school Slack channel will be maintained for inter-high school communication, which will be led, mentored, and administered by YDSA members designated by the appropriate nationally-elected organizational body.

R15: A National Organizing Committee: Passed 96 yes - 5 no

Sponsors: Jacob Wartel *YDSA University of Virginia*

Co-sponsors: Remington Mickle *YDSA Purdue*

Nikhil Pailoor *YDSA Georgia Tech*

Whereas, there is a weak link between the national organization and chapters, which has led to a confederated and disunited organization,

And whereas, it is essential that the national organization is responsive to the needs of its members and chapters,

And whereas, the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) should function as political leadership of the organization, overseeing the largest-scale decision-making in YDSA, but does not have capacity to act as the only administrative-organizational layer enacting YDSA's national priorities,

And whereas, internal organizing strengthens member organizing skills and can facilitate new projects around the country,

And whereas, we seek to build a new layer of socialist organizers who are equipped with the political knowledge and skills to organize for socialism,

Therefore be it resolved that a National Organizing Committee (NOC) shall be established to serve as an organizing department of YDSA, subordinate to and directed by the political leadership of the NCC

And be it further resolved, in regards to composition, the NOC shall:

1. Consist of members nominated and approved by a two-thirds vote of the NCC following a period of open applications, with members removable by a two-thirds vote of the NCC;
2. Allow all members of the NCC to serve as ex-officio members;
3. Recommend future NOC appointments to the NCC on a rolling basis
4. Be primarily composed of YDSA members, but may include DSA members;
5. Be initially composed of the Regional Organizing Committee (ROC) co-chairs elected by the 2020 convention;

And be it further resolved, in regards to its responsibilities, the NOC shall:

1. Seek to hold regular calls with each chapter and organizing committee;
2. Provide training, support, and mentorship to chapters and members;
3. Work to integrate national resources, materials, and campaigns into chapters;
4. Elevate local chapter experiences and reports to inform national strategy;
5. Recruit chapter leaders from stable, developed chapters to national committees;
6. Seek to recruit and train a diverse group of potential NOC members
7. Produce organizational reports on the state of chapters to be presented at all future Conferences and Conventions

And be it further resolved that upon the close of the 2020 convention, the ROCs shall be disbanded.

Amendment to Resolution 15: Failed 19 yes - 77 no

Nate Stewart, UMBC YDSA

This amendment would replace the final two resolved clauses

New Language:

R16: Recommitting to *The Activist*: Passed 97 yes - 4 no

Sponsors: Griffin Mahon *University of Virginia*

Co-sponsors: Nate Knauf *YDSA Georgia Tech*

Elias Khoury *YDSA at the University of Michigan*

Whereas, the 2019 YDSA convention committed YDSA's National Political Education Committee to reviving YDSA's publication, *The Activist*. Since then, *the Activist* editorial board has successfully created a print magazine and published regular blog posts on the YDSA website.

Whereas, although the revival has been a success, the volunteer editorial team faced some significant hurdles in trying to build a legitimate publication from the ground up due to limited experience, volunteer capacity and financial resources. The tasks of the Editor-in-chief are on the level of an internship, and editing a publication requires both a somewhat rarified skillset and a significant amount of time.

Whereas, the resolution to revive *The Activist* gave the publication a clear mandate to foster principled political debate within YDSA, but the uneven political development of the organization and the lack of contact with many chapters has meant that such debate about the strategic orientation of the organization has been limited.

Whereas, *The Activist* exists both as a publication by and for YDSA members, but also as a mouthpiece for the organization to the broader left and to young people curious about socialism. This dual purpose necessitates a high level of commitment and professionalism.

Therefore, be it resolved that the YDSA NCC will create an application process to select an Executive Editor, who will be tasked with overseeing the publication of *The Activist*'s blog and print issues, convening an editorial board, setting the editorial line for the publication and overseeing the editorial process, and chairing *the Activist* Editorial Board. *The Activist* Editorial Board will be a subcommittee of the National Political Education Committee. YDSA members interested in joining *the Activist* Editorial Board will be encouraged to submit a supplement to the NPEC committee application that details their writing, editing, and publishing experience, as well as a short writing sample.

Resolved, *The Activist* will publish a semesterly print edition containing feature articles about YDSA campaigns and current topics of political import, political commentary and strategic analysis relevant to young socialists, and articles highlighting the work YDSA chapters are doing around the country. Chapters will be provided print issues when they are chartered and when new issues are released, to be distributed to membership or used as recruitment literature.

Resolved, *the Activist* Editorial board will continue to publish at least one article each week on y.dsausa.org, as well as monthly roundups of reports submitted by chapters about the work they are doing. Content on *The Activist* blog should include but not be limited to: in-depth reflections on campaigns carried out by chapters, socialist political commentary on current events, and political arguments responding to strategic questions faced by YDSA and the broader left.

Resolved, *The Activist* will create a monthly newsletter to be emailed to all YDSA members which will contain links to all recently-published articles and chapter reports, calls for submissions on particular topics, and other news pertaining to *The Activist* and the National Political Education Committee.

Resolved, *The Activist* shall continue to publish both internal political debates and external socialist journalism under the same branding, with freedom to prioritize different content between the website blog and print literature which have different audiences. *The Activist* shall strive to politically develop YDSA's membership to a point where we have sufficient internal debate to warrant an internal-facing publication or bulletin.

Resolved, YDSA will ask the DSA National Political Committee to provide *the Activist* Editorial Board with an adequate budget to publish a semesterly newsprint periodical, hire illustrators and graphic designers, and provide a stipend to *the Activist* Executive Editor.

Amendment to Resolution 16: Failed 29 yes - 62 no

Sponsor: Sonia Borenstein, UMBC YDSA

Old Language:

Resolved, *The Activist* will create a monthly newsletter to be emailed to all YDSA members which will contain links to all recently-published articles and chapter reports, calls for submissions on particular topics, and other news pertaining to *The Activist* and the National Political Education Committee.

Resolved, *The Activist* shall continue to publish both internal political debates and external socialist journalism under the same branding, with freedom to prioritize different content between the website blog and print literature which have different audiences. *The Activist* shall strive to politically develop YDSA's membership to a point where we have sufficient internal debate to warrant an internal-facing publication or bulletin.

New Language:

Resolved, *The Activist* will publish a semesterly print edition containing feature articles about YDSA campaigns and current topics of political import, political commentary and strategic analysis relevant to young socialists, and articles highlighting the work YDSA chapters are doing around the country. Chapters will be provided print issues when they are chartered and when new issues are released, to be distributed to membership or used as recruitment literature.

Resolved, in addition to the chartered printed copies, anyone can order a print subscription with a reasonable price that will help the organization fundraise and increase awareness, with this program to begin once the Editorial Board of *The Activist* democratically agrees that the venture is possible and viable.

Resolved, *the Activist* Editorial board will continue to publish at least one article each week on y.dsausa.org, as well as monthly roundups of reports submitted by chapters about the work they are doing. Content on *The Activist* blog should include but not be limited to: in-depth reflections on campaigns carried out by chapters, socialist political commentary on current events, and political arguments responding to strategic questions faced by YDSA and the broader left.

R17: Resolution on Creating Safe Organizing Spaces: Referred to NCC

Sponsors: Kaya Epstein *UT YDSA*

Co-sponsors: Autumn Lanning *UT YDSA*

Jesse Miller *Young Democratic Socialists at Texas A&M University*

We often hear the plea for unity on the left. Pick up your torches, join your local socialist organization, get to work. With unity, we could accomplish so much. Universal paid sick leave, worker protections, medicare for all, prison abolition. However, the leftist movement has historically remained complicit in behaviors that don't make the organizing community welcoming. Just because we are leftists, does not mean we are above causing harm. So, how do we actually earn this unity? How do we make our organizing spaces welcoming and safe? We are trying to improve our communities and build strong bonds with the people we love and care for, so our movement can last. We need to build power that's rooted in radical love, respect, and solidarity. We need our movement to outlive us. It's the only way we win the world we know we deserve.

While this may not be the case in every chapter, many of us have personally experienced and heard complaints from others that these spaces can be unwelcoming. Some of them uphold a culture of abuse. We understand that abuse culture is the dominant culture, but as leftists organizers, we have to hold ourselves to higher standards. It's not enough to say we don't support abuse, we have to be actively anti-abuse. It's not enough to say we support survivors, we have to fight for survivors and create systems that serve survivors. Here are our propositions for a transformative and restorative justice-inspired system to promote harm prevention and work towards community healing in a non-carceral yet effective way:

Whereas, YDSA is committed to creating a better world through the spread of Socialism and building class struggle community power;

Whereas, we want to build power rooted in radical love and respect for one another;

Whereas, the current sample constitution demands that YDSA chapters adopt grievance policies, no adequate framework is provided;

Whereas, abusive and harmful behaviors are still permitted, perpetuated, and smoothed over within organizing circles and;

Whereas, it's not enough to say we support survivors and/or people who have been harmed, we have to be proactive in fighting for survivors and preventing harm; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA),

Includes the following document in the YDSA Sample constitution:

[-Harm Prevention Team Framework](#)

-Urges all YDSA chapters to adopt the linked framework and procedures into their constitution and practices

Amendment to Resolution 17: Referred to NCC

Sponsor: Labiba Chowdhury, City College

Old Language:

Resolved, that the Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA),

Includes the following document in the YDSA Sample constitution:

[-Harm Prevention Team Framework](#)

-Urges all YDSA chapters to adopt the linked framework and procedures into their constitution and practices

New Language:

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) will include in its sample constitution "Article IX: Harassment Policy" the following language adopted by Resolution 33 passed in the 2017 DSA national convention:

Scope

Prohibited behavior. Members shall not engage in harassment on the basis of sex, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical appearance, disability, race, color, religion, national origin, class, age, or profession. Harassing or abusive behavior, such as unwelcome attention, inappropriate or offensive remarks, slurs, or jokes, physical or verbal intimidation, stalking, inappropriate physical contact or proximity, and other verbal and physical conduct constitute harassment when:

Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a member's continued affiliation with DSA;

Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for organizational decisions affecting such individual; or

Such conduct has the purpose or effect of creating a hostile environment interfering with an individual's capacity to organize within DSA.

Other protected classes. Harassment based on categories not encompassed by those listed section (a) will be evaluated at the discretion of the HGO and Steering Committee representatives.

2. Reporting Harassment

Complaints. Members may follow the standard DSA complaint process as set out in the following sections if they believe they have been harassed by another member. There will be no time limits requiring the accuser to file a report within any amount of time after the alleged harassment has occurred.

Harassment Grievance Officers. Members filing a formal complaint must contact a DSA harassment grievance officer ("HGO").

No person who holds any position at the Institution in which they are unable to ensure confidentiality—if, for example, they are a mandatory reporter—may be appointed as an HGO.

(Language for YDSA chapters in geographic regions with a DSA chapter with greater than one hundred members and designated HGO(s)...)

Members of The Chapter should direct grievance complaints to the HGO(s) designated by (insert DSA Chapter) or the National Grievance and Harassment Officer, Paula Brantner, at nationalgrievanceofficer@dsausa.org.

(Language for YDSA chapters not in geographic regions with a DSA chapter with greater than one hundred members and designated HGO(s)...)

Members of The Chapter should direct grievance complaints to the National Grievance and Harassment Officer, Paula Brantner, at nationalgrievanceofficer@dsausa.org.

Be it resolved, that YDSA chapter leaders will be allowed to adopt a modified harassment and grievance policy if they feel that this would better suit their needs. However, all chapters must have a harassment and grievance policy of some kind outlined in their constitutions, and any modification to the existing DSA grievance policy that chapters might decide to adopt should be approved by the NCC. Chapters should also ensure that their policy does not conflict with the rules set out by their university.

Be it resolved, the onboarding process for new YDSA elected chapter leaders will include training on the grievance policy for YDSA and the grievance reporting procedure."

R18: Student and Workers Relief: Passed 89 yes - 0 no

Sponsors: **Remington Mickle** *YDSA Purdue*
 Sumter Alton *Georgia Tech YDSA*

Co-Sponsors: **Amelia Blair-Smith** *Carleton College YDSA*
 Kristen Cervero *NYU YDSA*

Whereas, students and workers on campuses around the country face a political and economic crisis on the scale of the 2008 recession. The forces of capital aim to raise tuition and fees, to cut essential programs and services, and to lay off and furlough masses of workers. Even in the event of reduced economic activity, democratic input from students and workers can fundamentally alter how resources are managed so as to ensure an equitable and just economy;

Whereas, between the COVID-19 pandemic; an economic crisis on the scale of the 2008 recession, national uprisings protesting the racism embedded in our economic, political, and criminal justice systems; mass unemployment; and a crisis in our political system regarding the 2020 presidential election, our current moment's extreme political volatility shows that YDSA needs a broad and flexible political orientation towards struggle;

Whereas, young, working class Black people all across the country have risen up to articulate a vision of racial justice that cannot be achieved with the current militarization and over-funding of the police.

Whereas, a socialist vision for people's empowerment will lead us down that path of organizing the working class; and in order to achieve that socialist vision we need to not only organize for the COVID relief we all deserve, but also plan a transformative campaign that will bring us closer to winning socialist change both at a local and national level.

Whereas, YDSA can be a vehicle for class struggle on campuses around the country, and should aim to establish itself as such. We seek to win a majority of working-class people over to a program of Democratic Socialism;

Whereas, our ability to organize a successful mass movement that can win socialist demands is predicated on building deep ties and trust with non-socialist working class people, including those in unions, community organizations, and other student groups;

Whereas, our ability to wage a national campaign relies on effective local and regional action, which can take months to plan and execute;

Therefore be it resolved, that YDSA will build on the campaign begun by YDSA's 2019-2020 NCC in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in establishing the following priority campaign, henceforth referred to as a Students' and Workers' Relief;

And be it further resolved, that YDSA shall focus on establishing local and regional pressure campaigns in each chapter around the common theme of a Students and Workers Relief seeking to win a material gain for the working class on campuses around the country;

And be it further resolved, that YDSA shall fight against austerity measures in our schools, for the protection and expansion of campus services and programs, for the redistribution of power and wealth towards the working class, and for the interests of the working class generally;

And be it further resolved, the NCC may set federal level guiding objectives of the campaign, related to the

interests of the working class on campuses and in schools. These objectives may include, but are not limited to:

- Universal \$2000 monthly payments
- Universal, single-payer healthcare
- Debt cancellation
- Monthly payment freezes for necessities like rent, utilities, and so on

And be it further resolved, YDSA shall orient itself towards the mass base of the working class on and around campuses, including:

- Students who are working while studying;
- Students who face financial, accessibility, or health burdens due to the COVID-19 crisis, or who are reliant on loans, financial aid, scholarships, and other support under threat of austerity;
- Campus workers, including academic faculty, graduate workers, and service staff;
- Off-campus workers and tenants who exist in the same general communities as campuses;

And be it further resolved, chapters are encouraged to work with their base in the development and execution of campaigns that address local issues impacting students and workers on their campuses. Proposed strategies for engaging with said base are as follows:

Students

Chapters are encouraged to survey and engage in one-on-one conversations with students at their campuses to discuss their learning and living conditions; engage in political education through graphics, Socialist Night Schools, town halls, and class raps; and use social media, press, petitions, and student government as platforms to disseminate their campaign ideas and goals.

Workers

Chapters are encouraged to invite student-workers and other campus workers to events to discuss their working and learning conditions, attend union meetings, and make joint demands with campus unions.

And be it further resolved, national YDSA will support local chapters in their efforts to run campaigns through one-on-ones, workshops/trainings, etc. This support will involve assisting chapters with different aspects of strategic campaign planning, including but not limited to: cutting an issue, developing strategies to pressure the administration, building local coalitions, and collaborating regionally in order to win local demands that address the needs of working-class young people related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to meet national and local needs, the following subcommittees are recommended:

Outreach, whose duties include having regular, strategic one-on-one calls with chapters to mentor them on their local campaigns, and mobilizing YDSA members to national calls and trainings

Materials, whose duties include creating trainings, written guides, graphics, flyers, and other campaign materials to help chapters with their local campaigns and to publicize our campaign on the national level

Coalition Building, whose duties include forming relationships with partner organizations who will sign on their support for our campaign on the national level.

And be it further resolved, when strategic, YDSA chapters will be encouraged to research their local and/or school's police departments and budgets in order to demand these police departments be defunded and those resources re-allocated to funding local demands that support the working class.

And be it further resolved, YDSA chapters are encouraged to prioritize building a winning coalition with other youth and student organizations, labor groups, and elected officials who support our demands.

And be it further resolved, in the event of larger campaigns involving multiple campuses, such as those targeting governing boards or legislatures, YDSA looks favorably on chapters forming regional organizations

and coalitions around campaigns;

And be it further resolved, a report on the campaign will be issued by National YDSA and made available to the membership of YDSA before the 2021 YDSA convention that details the state of the campaign, the number of chapters running pressure campaigns, and the successes and failures of chapters' efforts.

R19: Towards an Independent Working Class Party: Failed 86 yes - 13 no

Sponsors: Ben Roberts *Harvard College YDSA*

Co-sponsors: Bennett Burke *University of Texas at Austin YDSA*

Ruy Martinez *Harvard College YDSA*

WHEREAS, the 2016, 2020, and numerous historical attempts at reforming the capitalist Democratic Party have failed in achieving even a social-democratic party;

WHEREAS, at the 2019 DSA Convention, Resolution #31 passed calling for the creation of an independent working class party;

WHEREAS, the creation of an independent working class party will allow for a broader discussion on class analysis and liberation for all in the multiracial working class that is absent in the liberal Democratic Party;

WHEREAS, a electorally viable working class party would have a larger base than the amount of people currently in DSA, and must therefore create a conversation and coalition with other radical and working class groups;

RESOLVED, that YDSA endorses a strategy of tactical usage of socialists running on the Democratic Party line when it is useful for creating a conversation about working class issues, while proactively seeking to find ways to incorporate a Democratic Socialist party line;

RESOLVED, that YDSA calls upon DSA to begin a national conversation upon the creation and infrastructure required to create a Democratic Socialist party, based on the call in the DSA 2019 Convention, Resolution #31 to create an independent working class party;

RESOLVED, that YDSA itself will begin this conversation among chapters and pursue its own suggested plan and ways in which YDSA can create the infrastructure required for such a party, with the NPEC to organize a series of calls or debates and the Activist to encourage discussion on the topic;

RESOLVED, that YDSA supports the calls in the petition of [‘DSA Members for a Democratic Socialist Party’](#) to begin conversations and meetings to discuss the path towards building a Democratic Socialist party;

- A. These meetings should be arranged after the 2020 general election,
- B. The meetings should seek to conclude with the following accomplishments: a commitment for the organizations involved to seek out debate and conversation upon the idea of joining this project towards an independent working-class party, a general strategy in the short and medium term (i.e, before it becomes a truly mass party and must be tactically utilized), conditional infrastructure that must be developed before such a project can launch in the limited tactical capacity and in the mass 'dirty break' capacity, a timeline for the aforementioned strategy and infrastructure to be built, and a commitment to future regular convening of interested parties should the project have promise.
- C. DSA will appeal to leaders like Bernie Sanders, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib, Nina Turner, DSA endorsed elected officials, unions that affiliated to Labor for Bernie, Sunrise Movement, and others committed to a democratic, working class party.
- D. Other socialist or "left-of-democrat" organizations, including but not limited to, the Green Party, SPUSA, CPUSA, Socialist Alternative, PSL, or Movement for a People's Party, shall be invited to this meeting.

RESOLVED, that the NCC will have the power to potentially create a working group if DSA decides to partake in this task specifically to gather the ideas within a greater YDSA debate into a cohesive document with a strategy and general timeline to advise the NCC and members in future decisions relating to this task and the series of aforementioned inter-organizational meetings, and push work to see the to be mentioned inter-organizational meetings come to fruition.

Amendment to Resolution 19: Failed 86 yes - 21 no

Sponsor: Griffin Mahon, University of Virginia

This amendment would replace all Resolved clauses.

Proposed New Language:

RESOLVED, that YDSA endorses a strategy of tactical usage of socialists running on the Democratic Party line when it is useful for advancing independent working-class politics and organization, as outlined in DSA 2019 Convention Resolution #31 on "Class Struggle Elections."

RESOLVED, that the National Political Education Committee will produce a series of lessons on the U.S.'s two-party system, the creation of previous socialist parties in the U.S. and other countries, and the importance of independence for working-class politics.

RESOLVED, that YDSA recognizes that the struggle to found a mass socialist party is a medium- or long-term struggle, not a short-term one; that the conditions for founding such a party cannot be predicted or prescribed but will likely be a DSA with hundreds of thousands of members and a higher level of class struggle and organization in society; and that the primary ways to build such a party are running socialist candidates for office and organizing within the labor movement.

RESOLVED, that YDSA chapters should therefore be encouraged to engage with the campaigns of DSA-endorsed candidates whenever it is strategic for them to do so. If there is interest among chapters, the National Coordinating Committee and Regional Organizing Committees (or National Organizing Committee) may help to facilitate this by providing resources and trainings for YDSA members on how to engage in electoral work, such as how to run canvasses or phonebanks.

R20: An Uprising for Black Lives: Failed 22 yes - 71 no

Sponsors: **Ruy Martinez** *Harvard College YDSA*

Co-sponsors: **Mathew Chvasta** *Vanderbilt University YDSA*

Richard Merino *Harvard College YDSA*

WHEREAS, the murder of George Floyd by Derek Chauvin has brought about a state of revolt in most large US cities due to the brutal and racist state of police in our country;

WHEREAS, different cities and communities in the United States have experienced other acts of terror and murder by the police before and during these protests, including Mike Ramos and Justin Howell in Austin, Breonna Taylor in Louisville, and countless others injured or murdered;

WHEREAS, police brutality and racism is inherent to police due to their status as protecting capitalism, property, and white supremacy, seeing as their original purpose in capturing fugitive slaves in the early 1800s and strikebreakers, and therefore cannot be reformed even into a non-brutal form, let alone a non-violent one;

WHEREAS, it is understood that even a disbanding of police departments into a new 'community safety' form, as done by Minneapolis, will not abolish police, as it is tied to capitalism, and will likely be transformed into a less brutal but still violent way to enforce property, capitalism, and white supremacy — that only the end of the state as the organized rule of the oppressing class can truly bring about police abolition, and only abolishing capitalism and replacing it with a democratic worker's state can put us on the path to a classless, stateless society without violence at its core;

WHEREAS, socialist organizations should give full support to the protests being called by criminal justice and Black organizations while also raising a socialist policy that will help build class consciousness towards the eventual abolition of capitalism;

RESOLVED, that YDSA is in full support of the protests and the actions protestors take in their reaction to decades and centuries of oppression, and will create a public statement showing this unwavering support,

RESOLVED, that YDSA fights for a society based on economic, racial, and gender justice, a democratic socialist society where police are abolished, prisons are part of history books, and oppression and exploitation are ended;

RESOLVED, that YDSA will formally take on three 'slogans' in writings, materials, and other applicable mediums to espouse these demands. The slogans are "Uprising for Black Lives", "Abolish the Police", and "Fund our Communities" and we link them to the struggle to fundamentally change society;

A. "Uprising for Black Lives" is a description and a call for what's happening in the US and internationally right now: a call to action to fight racism and oppression of Black people and other people of color by the state, the economic realities of capitalism, and the structural racism running through the state and all pores of society. Nothing short of an uprising is needed to challenge those power structures. We call not only for the prosecution of Derek Chauvin and his three accomplices who murdered George Floyd, but the prosecution and/or removal of all police officers and other figures who have hurt, maimed, or killed people in instances of police brutality in chapter specific locales;

B. "Abolish the Police" is tied with the struggle to abolish capitalism, as we understand that policing is inherently violent, brutal, racist, and capitalist due to its history as an arm of slavery and property, and no reform will get rid of these traits. That defunding or disbanding of police departments and transforming them into less violent alternatives, while significant, are reforms that will not truly abolish police while we live under capitalism, that

even a less physically brutal enforcement of capitalist laws means an enforcement of capitalism that can be co-opted, such as through endless paperwork or meetings for those accused of a wrongdoing;

C. “Fund our Communities” specifies that the funds from police departments reduced by a campaign should go into funding programs for local communities, such as low income, publicly owned housing development, public health, first responders, social services, direct payments to struggling families, and so on, that the capitalist state does not build a community, but that the people do. Ultimately, these demands are the basic expression of letting the people have the freedom to truly build that community in their lives and in their surroundings;

RESOLVED, that YDSA recommends in addition to the three demands that students on campus should take particular focus on expelling police forces from their campuses, whether that is ‘Student Resource Officers’ in high schools or private police departments such as at universities like Drexel and Harvard;

RESOLVED, that YDSA shall formally release a statement calling for all DSA endorsed candidates running for public office to express their support for these three demands.

Amendments

A1: Ending the Ban on Democratic Centralists: Failed 33 yes - 68 no

Sponsors: Nate Stewart, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*

Co-sponsors: Sonia Borenstein, *University of Maryland Baltimore County*
Julia Laing, *Virginia Commonwealth University*

Reasoning

Democratic centralism is a common form of structural organization for socialist groups. It entails reaching a democratic consensus within a group which is then binding on all members. It has been described as a process that promotes “freedom of discussion, unity of action” or less charitably as “the subordination of the minority to the majority.” Membership of any organization that follows these principles is currently considered grounds to expel a YDSA member from our organization.

The YDSA is materially harmed and limited in our capacity to organize by this backwards and anti-communist ban on membership of democratic centralist organizations. This ban is longstanding, and can be considered a relic of Cold War-era paranoia (as democratic centralism was considered a particularly Leninist form of socialist organizing) and petty Leftist infighting that we as an organization have long since moved past.

The existing language fails specifically in three main ways:

It does not reflect the actual positions of the membership of our organization. This ban does not seem to be enforced, yet it remains in our constitution. Furthermore, a clear and present majority of YDSA members, whether they agree with the principles of democratic centralism or not, have no problem organizing with democratic centralists and welcoming them into our “big tent.” As a democratic organization it is a disservice to our membership to have guiding documents that misrepresent our actually held values.

It limits our capacity to organize with democratic centralist organizations. A ban on members of these organizations, enforced or not, makes us seem unnecessarily hostile and leads us in part to be met with similar hostility. Whether or not it can account for the full measure of hostility the YDSA and DSA have met from many democratic centralist groups is neither here nor there. We are the largest student socialist group in the country, and our parent organization is the largest socialist organization in the country. It is on us therefore, if we want to consider ourselves any sorts of leaders of the American socialist movement, to make any and all reasonable steps to avoid needlessly antagonizing our comrades in other socialist organizations.

It discourages dual-carding. Dual-carding is an old union term for holding membership in more than one union (or in this case, activist organization) at once. It prevents destructive competition and infighting, as individuals unsure of which socialist organization to join are not limited by a ban by one organization on membership of others. We have already seen the benefits of having members dual-carding in groups like the Sunrise Movement, Dream Defenders, and others. We should expand this to include other socialist groups.

Some final notes about this amendment: It does not open the door for individuals in democratic centralist groups who intend to disrupt our activism. Due to our lack of enforcement on the ban they could already get in anyways and they can still be expelled on the grounds of “disruptive behavior” without unfairly targeting an entire structure of organizing.

This does soften our commitment to the DSA’s governance slightly but this is necessary to ensure that we are not bound by the identical ban present in the DSA’s constitution. That ban can also be amended, but only at the next DSA convention in the summer of 2021. We cannot afford to waste that time, the emerging political moment we

find ourselves in requires we take whatever proactive action that we can to ensure that we can most effectively build the coalitions we need to win socialism.

Old Language

Article II, Sec. 1 – YDSA is the Youth Section of the Democratic Socialists of America and, as such, is bound to the principles and governance of DSA as prescribed in the DSA constitution and bylaws.

...

Article IV, Sec. 3 – Members may be expelled from YDSA membership if they are found to be in substantial disagreement with the principles or policies of the organization or if they consistently engage in undemocratic, disruptive behavior or if they are under the discipline of any self-defined democratic-centralist organization.

New Language

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A2: Striking The Age Restriction: Failed 49 yes - 52 no

Sponsors: Autumn Pickett, *YDSA Purdue*

Co-sponsors: Nate Knauf *YDSA*, *YDSA Georgia Tech*

Sumter Alton, *YDSA Georgia Tech*

Reasoning

YDSA currently exists in all meaningful ways as a student organization. Age is irrelevant to the status of “student”, especially for non-traditional students and graduate student-workers. The input and leadership of such members is just as valued as any other and limiting their ability to serve in elected positions acts as an undemocratic constraint on the organization.

Old Language

Article IV. Membership

Sec. 1 – Membership in YDSA shall be open to any DSA members who are full or part-time students, campus workers (including, but not limited to, adjunct faculty, teaching assistants, and non-traditional students), or youth who accept the aims, constitution, resolutions, and the decisions of the organization. Members over 30 years of age may not hold elective office in the organization."

New Language

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